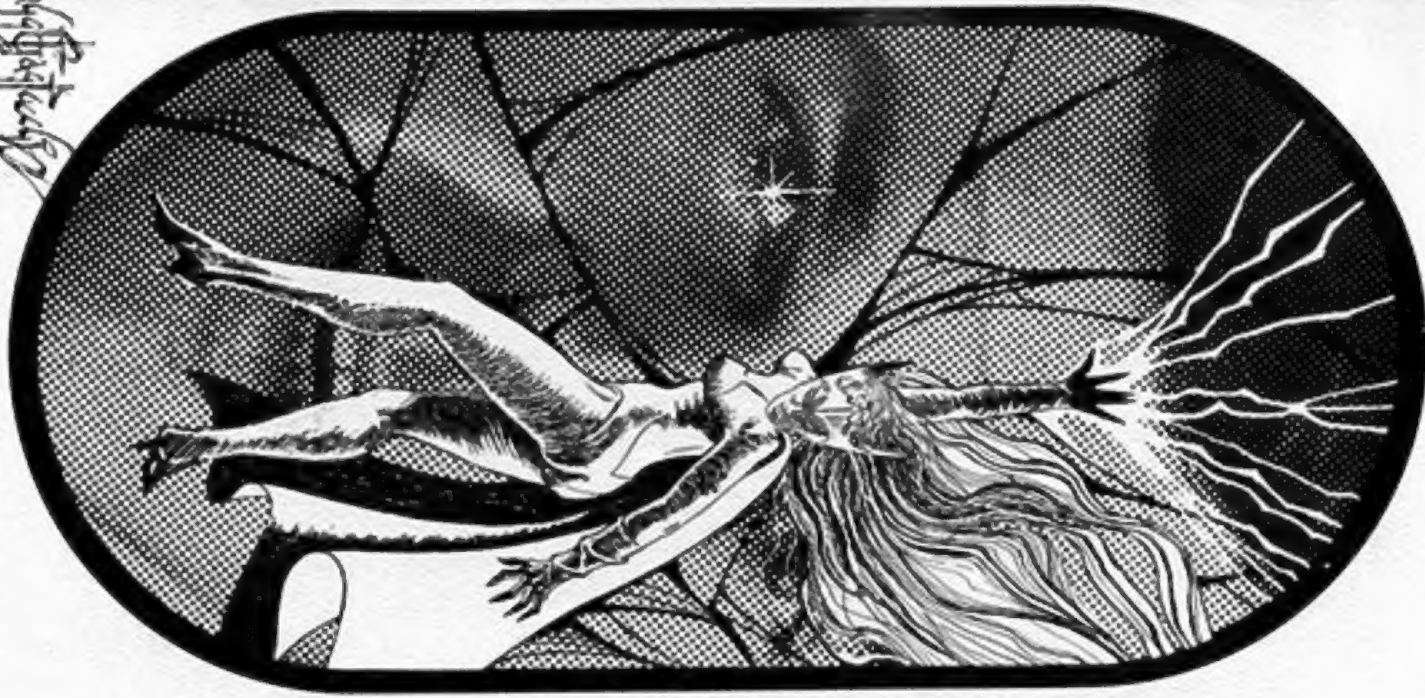
15
THE COLLECTOR

THE COLLECTOR - NUMBER FIFTEEN



EDITORIAL

BILL G. WILSON

Before I begin, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to the following people, for their hard work & cooperation which went into the publication of this issue. My sincere thanks to John G. Fantucchio, Ross Foss, Ron Green (for his fabulous Hawkman illo on this page), Terry Allen, Doug Fratz, Jim Warhola (who you'll be seeing lots more of, too!), Alan Hanley, Cory Moore, Steve Schulman, John Weibel, Louis Morra, Bill Schelly, Kurt Lucha, Mike Alroy, Jim D'Amico, Dave Treanor, Jim Shull, and, of course, all of our advertisers, correspondents, and critics!If that isn't an all-star list, I don't know what is!Unfortunately, we crowded out two of the greatest guys in fandom, Martin Greim and Bob Cosgrove. Well, don't worry, I'll make it a bet to feature their great work in #16! Speaking of TC#16.....

TC#16 will either appear before or after the NY con, depending upon whether or not, Ye Olde Ed will be able to attend. If I do attend, which there is great hopes of doing, TC#16 will probably include photos from the con, first-hand. Tentatively scheduled for the remainder of the issue...Another installment of "Unsung Heroes" by Doug Fratz, "New" by Duffy Vohland, "War Comics - A Study in Potential" by Mitchell Shields, a feature (with exclusive photos!) on the TC contest winners, a cover by Rich Moberg, art from the talented pens of John G. Fantucchio, Ross Foss, Kurt Lucha, and many, many others (maybe even a big-name pro!) plus much more!25¢ I'd like to take just a minute to plug a really excellent letterzine, Asterisk, which is available for ten cents in coin from Louis Morra/14 Grove Street/North Attleboro, Mass./02760. Asterisk is where fandom's most popular fans present their comments, gripes, views, and rebuttals. Asterisk•

THE 15¢ COMIC BOOK...INFLATION?

In the remaining space I'd like to voice a few opinions on the newest comic book trend: the 15¢ comic book. It seems that DC has already started producing them. Now...who will be next? DC in its editorial letters in current issues of their books, contend that the 15¢ comic was inevitable, what with the rising costs of everything else at this time. I feel, to a certain extent, that they are justified in their attempt, and that they deserve every bit of cooperation and respect for publicly admitting the change and for being wise enough to foresee the outcome of the 12¢ comic book (eventually, the end of the comic publishing industry. If they had not made the change, how would they be able to keep up with the rising costs of wages, food, production, etc.? I congratulate DC in their attempt, and I hope that they lose no readership in the process.

Bill G. Wilson/1535 Oneida Dr./ Clairton, Pa./15025/412-233-5496

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UNSUNG HEROES

WRITTEN BY DOUG FRATZ

ANOTHER INSTALLMENT FEATURING LITTLE-KNOWN HEROES OF "THE FIRST GREAT GOLDEN AGE OF COMIC SUPERHEROES'

MANHUNTER...

Through the forties, Quality's Police Comics featured such greats as Plasticman and Will Eisner's Spirit, but also during almost all of its existance (in #8-101) it also featured Manhunter, a charcter almost totally forgotten. Now this is not one of the onther many Manhunters to inhabit comic history. The best known Manhunter was probably the one put out by National at about the same time, but with much shorter life in Adventure #73-92. That Manhunter was by Simon and Kirby, and one of the first they gave up.

Manhunter wore all blue tights and a blue rectangular eye mask.He was a detective, without superpowers, had a dog named Thor, and in real life was policeman Dan Richards. I don't know who the artist was, but it wasn't bad art, although not as good as the other two main features in Police Comics, Plasticman and The Spirit. Thor was seemingly his only friend and other regular in his stories.

One story of interest I have is a weird thing where a mystery (murder, of course) keeps following Mother Goose Rhymes, called "Manhunter's Mother Goose". In it, a Mr. H. Dumpty is pushed off a wall that he is sitting on, and falls and can't be fixed. It all happened while his lawyer, Mr. King, was counting Mr. Dumpty's money, his wife was eating bread and honey, and the maid was hanging out the clothes (when a raven owned by the butler took her gold pin). After "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" and "The Queen of Hearts", Manhunter figured it all out, in the super detective style. But only after poor Thor was shot.

But other than that, Manhunter was nothing special, really, and even this story had its faults; with dialogue like: "Blah-blah! He did! Jaw-jaw-jaw!". Goodness.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING.....

HUMAN METEOR

Lasting from Champ Comics #6-24, Family's Human Meteor was one of their secondary heroes. In his origin, he was supposed to have gotten a wonder belt from an Ancient Tibetian Prince (?) which gave him great powers (you know, flying, great strength, all the standards), but in issues I have, I see no belt. In fact, I see very little, for his costume is one of the skimpiest ever worn by by a super-hero. He has regular boots (really stockings, to near the knee) and shorts and a cape, all in green, but other than that, nothing. His only friend and regular is Toby, a shoeshine boy who knows his identity.

The Human Meteor seemed to like to fight German and Japanese spys in the United States, and his stories were thick with the patriotic propaganda of the period. In one story, The Human Meteor asks the people on a passenger plane to all bail out so he can take the plane and try to capture the spies, and they are naturally all too glad to, with cries of "Just give us a chance to help our country!" and "Bring back those spies!". Very touching.

I have seen illustrations of The Human Meteor with what looked like a belt and also with a small mask and bands on his arms, but these must have gone before the ones I have.

CAPT. WIZARD

Now here's an interesting character. I don't know much about him, only that he appeared for a short while in Meteor Comics. It seems that a "certain waxed figure named Theophrastus Bombastus Paracelsus" gave him his powers. Since he had always wanted to be a super-hero and fight crime, he decided to go super-hero, with a black and red double diamond shaped mask (he had a mustache), blue boots, red pants, white baggy armed shirt, and a red cape. He has a nephew Billy and his parents (his mother seems to be Wizard's sister) as regulars, he started off his career investigating a robbery. A little man on the corner is selling dolls that rob houses. Wizard (as he is called all during the story; only the logo says Captain Wizard) then carries him off to find his boss. It's really a weird set-up. This mean guy is making these little men, who rob for him. One comes back having failed, and the guy blows his top and has his big assistant, Excilir 1, to step on poor little BBB-25, while hollering "KILL! KILL!". The guy who made the dolls is called only "Mr. Mischief Himself". Wizard words about two bits of magic, usually saying nothing but sometimes saying things like "Tara Tara Boom Boom!". The guy who sold the dolls helps Wizard to beat Mr. Mischief Himself and becomes Wizard's good friends as Baldy Bean (good ghu). In the third from the last panel Mr. Mischief Himself (looking very Japanese-like) is said to be "behind bars", but there is only one bar!

All in all, this is in a weird style that is definitely toungue-in-cheek humor. It would be worth your time to pick up a copy of Meteor Comics

if you have a chance, and read it.

HOOD

Catman Comics from Holyoke featured Catman and Kitten (of whom you've all heard), and one of the minor secondary features of that magazine was a hero called The Hood, who appeared in issues #5-27 and 29. His costume was above average as heroes go; he had a blue hood and cape, Hangman style, and the rest of his outfit was yellow with red shorts and gloves and blue boots, his chest having a red "H". All we know about his identity is that he is Major Tom Wood, and he runs around some with a blonde who likes art, and is overall full of culture.

The Hood tended to domestic crooks and was just another 6 page filler. Big Deal.

DR. MIRACLE

Another magic hero, this time fighting mostly the Germans, appeared in Champ Comics, and was called Dr. Miracle, Master of Magic. He wore a suit and a tail and a red bow tie and cape. His powers came from a magic amulet around his neck, although I don't know his origin. The ultra patriotic propaganda was here too. German officers were always big, fat, stupid, and cowardly, and he did very symbolic things like turning them into pigs. Oh yeah, he wore a monacle in his right eye.

German officers saying "I'm going to find me a nice quiet insane asylum to hide in!" and "I should nefer have left Chermany! Such goings on I nefer saw!" were really what made this strip what it was.

(This is all for now, and you won't believe why I'm stopping! I'm actually sneezing and have a headache because of these comics I've gotten out; I must really be allergic to the way they smell (the old mildewed smell...) Shucks. What a thing for a comic collector to have!)

DON'T FORGET

"The Collector" #16, ready in July (hopefully), all offset, wrap around binding. Work by Fantucchio, Foss, Luchs, Fratz, Greim, Moore, Wilson, Vohland, and lots more. (maybe even a pro or two; no offense, JGF, I mean a comic pro)...Just 25¢ mailed flat!

"The COLLECTOR SPECIAL" ready by early July; all offset, wrap-around 8 1/2 x 11. Panoramic front & back covers by John Fantucchio, The Complete Saga of Hyperman by Bill G. Wilson, "I Believe" by Steve Johnson PLUS reprints, new articles and art from guys like Fantucchio, Foss, Transue, Greim, Luchs, Moore, Biljo White, and more! Photos, repros, and more! Only 50¢ mailed flat !

Watch for this great new character COMING SOON in TC!

SUPERMAN on radio—the screen—tv

BILL G. WILSON

Since his debut in the first issue of Action Comics, in 1938, the fantastic Man of Steel has been one of the most popular comic book characters ever created. Because of his amazing popularity, many motion picture industries, newspapers, and radio broadcasting ind. decided to cash in on the champion of champions; thus producing some of the best movies, radio & TV programs, and comic strips ever produced.

Following the introduction of the Superman comic magazine and the McClure syndicate comic strip,the Mutual Radio Network brought Superman to radio, with the voice of Bud Collyer as the Man of Steel. In the early 1940's, Paramount Pictures, also seeing his popularity, introduced the first animated Superman cartoon series, which was widely advertised in a majority of the DC publications of that time period. It was a very popular series in itself, and displayed a great deal of detailed layouts and illustrations.

Although Columbia Pictures introduced the first live-action motion picture based on The Man of Steel, the first motion picture company interested in Superman was Republic. After being turned down at the offer by DC, Republic went ahead with their adaption of Captain Marvel, Superman's bitter rival. Then, in 1948, Columbia took it upon themselves to produce a new Superman serial, starring Kirk Alyn. Alyn was already an established actor in Hollywood, and was chosen for the role of Superman after a series of difficult screen tests. This serial adaption of the Man of Steel differed somewhat from the comic book version of that same period, but for the most part it followed the basic concept of the character, and proved to be a very well-handled, popular version.

So popular was that first serial that Columbia produced ATOM MAN VS. SUPERMAN in 1950, again starring Kirk Alyn. This serial was miraculously popular; even more so than the first serial version which was produced just two years before. The villain of the picture (Atom Man) soon proved to be one of the screen's most fearsome foes. Superman fans all over the world once again thrilled to the amazing abilities of the Man of Steel, as he continued his never-ending fight against the forces of evil on the earth.

Probably the most popular of the Superman actors was George Reeves, the husky college boxer, football player, and wrestling champ. Reeves got his first chance at the role of Superman in 1951 when Columbia decided to change casting and star him in SUPERMAN AND THE MOLE MEN. When Reeves' popularity was discovered and the popular television program began, this movie adaption was presented, in a cut version, as a two part episode. Reeves went on to make 100 television episodes, some of which were some of the best television programs at that time. This show became the no. 1 hit with fans all over the world. NO doubt that Reeves would have made 100's(cont.)

more episodes, had he not committed suicide in June, 1959. As strange as it may seem, being that Reeves had always said he enjoyed the role of Superman, the he killed himself because he was weary of the role, terribly depressed, and feeling that his career was going nowhere. It is truly a shame that such a man, who did so much to boost Superman's popularity, ended his life because of a fictional, unrealistic comic strip character.

Although the Superman saga had its ups and downs, its tragedies and handicaps, the Man of Steel still retains his peak of popularity. With the current cartoon series on television, he holds the interest of the younger fans; the fans of tomorrow. And, with the regular comic book episodes and the re-introduction of the old serials and television shows, he retains the interest of the experienced collector. As long as there are Superman comic books and strips to read, and old serial and TV reruns, to watch, there will be a Superman fan...somewhere.

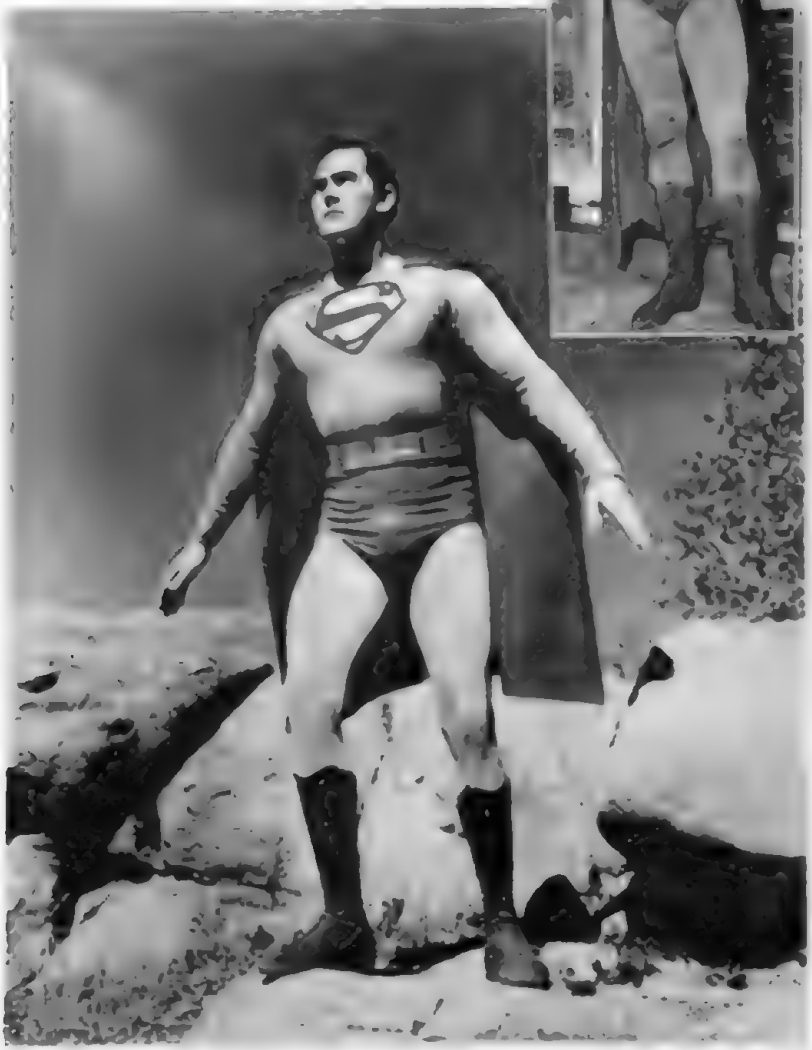
THE CARTOON TO THE RIGHT...

was illustrated by one James E. Warhola, nephew of the prominent pop artist Andy Warhol. Jim is a really great artist, and we hope to feature more of his fantastic artwork in future issues of TC.

Both Jim and his uncle are serious comic collectors, in case you didn't know it, and both have considerably large collections of comic books, strips, and big-little books, not to mention books concerning these subjects. We hope you enjoy seeing Jim's work as much as he enjoys drawing and we enjoy printing it.

SUPERMEN OF THE SCREEN

George Reeves (right)
Kirk Alyn (below)



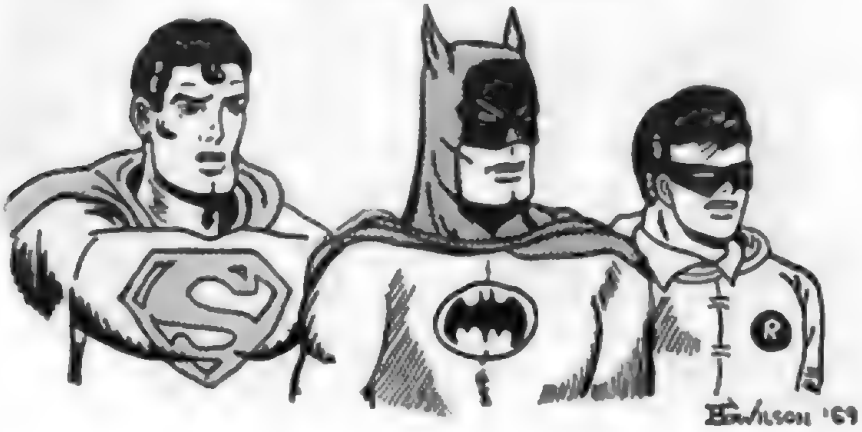
Covering briefly Superman's current adaptions, we first come to the Broadway musical, "It's A Bird...It's a Plane... It's Superman!", which debuted on Broadway in 1966, with Bob Holiday as The Man of Steel and Patricia Marand as Lois Lane. Although some skeptical Superman fans downgraded this show, it was very enjoyable and light-hearted. Probably the best part of the show was the showing of a few Krypton scenes from the 1948 serial.

In September of 1966, an all-new Superman cartoon show was introduced with the radio voice of Bud Collyer as the Kryptonian Crusader. Then, in 1967, the show combined with a half-hour Aquaman cartoon show to form the Superman-Aquaman Hour Of Adventure. Finally in 1968, Superman dropped Aquaman and substituted his life-long companion, Batman. Each hero has his own segment of the program, and they do not work together. Dropped from the half-hour segment of the Superman show, Aquaman began a new, half-hour cartoon series of his own, partially sharing it with individual or team members of the Justice League of America and/or the Teen Titans. As it stands now, The Batman-Superman Hour is divided among Batman & Robin, Superman, and Superboy and Krypto. This show provides enjoyment for the younger set and helps to keep Superman's popularity from falling, although many times it tends to stretch the basic story lines, thereby ruining some great original episodes.

Superman, the original super-hero, appears to be here to stay. And let us hope that if the stories and programs continue to progress, that he does stay.

BILL WILSON

Illustrations by ALAN HANLEY and BILL G. WILSON



REVIEW

Seduction of the Innocent

By Dr. Fredric Wertham

{ REVIEWED BY }
Steve Schulman

The book "Seduction of the Innocent" was published in the late fifties. It was written by Dr. Fredrick Wertham who, in simple words, was a comic hater. The book beared only one purpose, a purpose to wipe out a complete industry; the COMIC BOOK industry.

Dr. Wertham attacked comic books at every possible angle. He showed actual reproductions from pages of comic books to show the poor artwork, abundance of violence, and the lacking script. He blamed juvenile delinquency on comic books!

Dr. Wertham was noted for the watering down, thinning out, and cleaning up of comic books. As most comic readers know, there's a little seal of approval in the corner of just about every comic book in America. This was also caused by Wertham.

A while back on a TV show, Dr. Wertham met with a representative of CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED. Dr. Wertham stated to the representative that CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED were evil in the way that they kept children from reading the original novels. The CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED member, not knowing what to say, just muttered that it wasn't true. Here was a chance for jumping on Dr. Wertham's case. I doubt that Dr. Wertham HAS read the original novels, or he would have known that CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED censor out about 99% of the violence and vulgarity, which was what Dr. Wertham was fighting for.

Illustration by GARY MOORE

If you are not yet informed, Dr. Wertham also caused the death of the well-known EC Publications. He stated that the artwork was too poor and the script was terrible. "Well Mr. Frazetta, how do you like that one?"

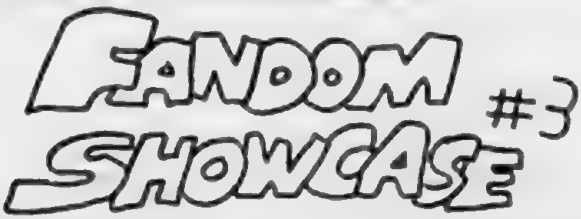
CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...

Here's one for all you hardcore superhero fans. He stated that Batman & Robin were homosexuals and that Wonder Woman was intended to stimulate the kiddies. Hoo Boy!

Although Dr. Wertham was sincere in his fight against comic fandom he succeeded a great deal. His fight against comic books has been outdated for many years now!

BY STEVE SCHULMAN
EDITOR OF KOMIK

THE FOLLOWING IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT



FANDOM SHOWCASE #3 is now on sale (It's all printed up) for 25¢ plus a 6¢ stamp. Envelopes are 5¢

FANDOM SHOWCASE #3 features:4 offset pages as well as ditto; cover by eight different artists; back cover by two artists; Editorial; three pinups by JIM HOBERMAN; Fanzine Reviews by DAN CAMPBELL; "The Marvel Mix-up" by RON LIBERMAN; "Heroic Saga" in color by GORDON MATTHEWS; two pinups by KEVIN RICHERT; "Starman" by DAVID KELLER; "The X-Men" by GARY GROTH; horror poems by LEWIS SAUNDERS; an article by WALTER JASCHEK; 5 page LoC section with letters from Ron Liberman, Gordon Matthews, Ben Katchor, and others, and illustrated by CRAIG BATTMER, HOWIE DREISES, and BEN KATCHOR; pinup of Conan by LARRY HELLER; spot illoes by BRAD SHTULMAN, NEAL POZNER, JACK FETTERMAN, and BILL LOTON; and an ad section!!

FS #2 was sold out!! FS #1 costs 25¢, no stamps!!

Subscriptions are 5 for $1.00.

FS #4 will be out soon, and will contain: "Marveldom" a satire by Dan Campbell; "Interview with Doc Savage" satire by JOHN SWAZY and DAVID KELLER; "Brave New Worlds" (also featured in #3) by Wade Hampton

DAN CAMPBELL/335 E. Columbus Pl./Long Branch, New Jersey 07740

ANOTHER CUP OF WINE

LOUIS MORRA

What Tom Christopher was trying to say in his article ("EC Meets Censorship", TC #13) was that the censorship of the ECs was wrong. In case at point, it is Tom and not the Comics Code that is wrong.

Tom recalls a certain story which the Old Witch told in which the peasants of a village revolted against the king and forced live rats down the man's throat. And he follows it up by saying that, admittedly, it was horrible to read, but that it was almost done like a children's story. This was, I think, a good example of the average EC that, while written and drawn well, did not carry any sort of substantial plot. In other words, done for the sensationalism of it, the reader appeal to that kind of thing solely, and not anything that made sense. Previous to that Tom sums up a crime comic of much the same genre, the difference being that the crime comic lacked the good art and writing that the EC did, and as such deserved the censorship it received.

Censorship did EC some good, even if it did cause the downfall of the line. I can stand looking at a pre-code s-f book and one after the code took power. Pre-code gets the benefit of excellent art and writing; in other words, good, except maybe too much violence and not enough plot. The post-code has these also and somthing beyond that: plotting that made understandable reading. It's a general idea, but the rule usually applies. EC thrived on horror; if not, it would have lived further under the code. "50 Girls 50" in Weird Science #20 was, I think, published after the code took effect. And, if not, ten bad examples story-wise can be thought of offhand to counter its quality.

It wasn't right that EC should die with the fly-by-night companies who over-did what they began; no. But in the same respect, EC should never have caused the attention they did. That's why, when Dr. Wertham began his campaign, they were lumped in with the profit-seekers competing with EC, competing in a market EC was well-set in and offering the same form of entertainment, if inferior. The kid who picked up the EC and the competitor saw no great difference. His interest lied simply in whatever it was in there that gave him his comic-reading kicks.

Censorship pulled together the field of comics that it finally invaded. It pulled EC together even if it caused them to leave, and it helped quite a few other companies to get their own footing back. But censorship in general? The story almost always follows true.

• Continued on the next page following..... •

The main question left is why EC died when their main forte, the horror and violence, was removed. It backtracks to something I said a little while ago: EC was bought for the violence, the horror and the sex, nothing more. That's what angered Wertham. And it's here that something is wrong, not in the minds of the people who advocated getting rid of what was, hard as it might be to believe and understand, the thing that was selling not only EC but others in that catagory.

It's difficult to come to a conclusion when speaking of censorship in any media. But in EC's case, at least, it was something badly needed. The pre-code ECs were good, but the post-code EC issues were even better, and as far as I can see the most legitimate complaint that can be leveled against Wertham and his organization is that it was their fault that EC finally died.

LOUIS MORRA

Illustration by BILL SCHELLY

PLEASE... DON'T PASS THIS UP!

THE COMIC CAVALIER, a great new ditto zine, depends upon everyone reading this ad to be successful. A 25 to 30 page zine printed in multi-colored ditto on a variety of colored paper. HERE'S WHAT #1 WILL CONTAIN:

- •Gordon Matthews' article..."THE GOLDEN AGE" of comics was terribly inferior. We are now living in the true one"
- •Either a science fiction story or satire by Dan Campbell
- •A cover reproduction of BATMAN #32 with info on what it contained
- •A listing of the first 8 comic strips in America beginning in 1897
- •ooops! A new article dedicated to boo-boo's in comics
- •reccommended fanzines; ads; crossword AND MORE!

In fact, to be truthful, we have not yet finished compiling it at the time this ad is being written. But by the time you're reading it it will be. So send in 25¢ plus 6¢ stamp to: Alan Light/R 1 Box 297/East Moline, ILL 61244

ART BY.....

Wade Hampton

Ben Katchor

Kevin Richert

Chris Frances

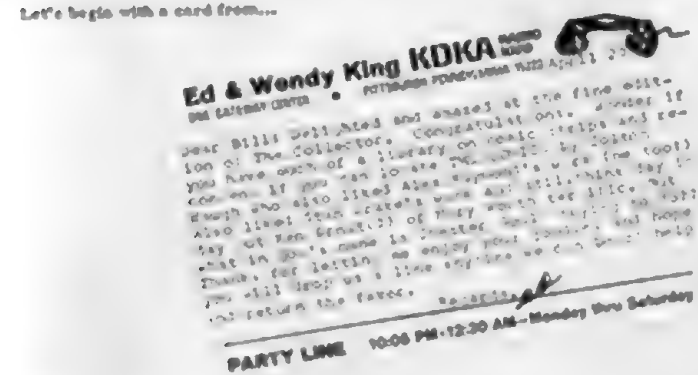
...Many More!

plus a great new adventure strip

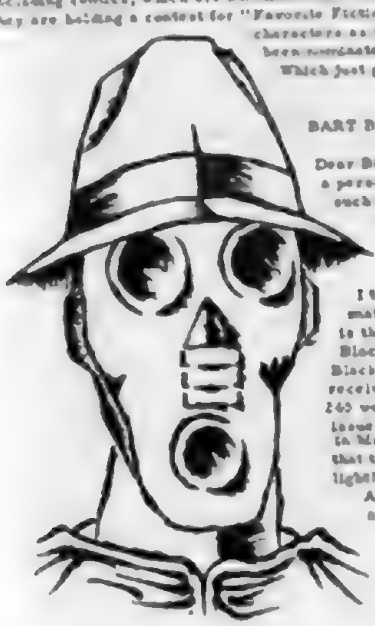
CRITICISMS... LETTERS FROM READERS...

Bill G Wilson 1535 Oneida Dr. Clairton, PA. 15025

Let's begin with a card from...



((As you can see, people in all fields read and collect comics. If you haven't been aware of it already, I might add that "Party Line" discusses anything and everything under the sun, including comics, which are mentioned and discussed quite frequently. Why, even at this time they are holding a contest for "Favorite Fictional Characters", in which such well-known comic characters as Cosmic Boy, Superman, and Flash Gordon have been nominated (Flash Gordon was nominated by your truly). Which just goes to show that comic buffs AREN'T nuts!))



BART BUSH / 713 Sugar Maple / Ponca City, Oklahoma

Dear Bill, Just received TC #14, and it's great!! You are a person who is really dedicated to your work to put out such an interesting fanzine on a bi-monthly basis. I enjoy receiving a zine that comes out when it's supposed to, (or close about) than some that say 5-6 times a year and end up making 2 or 3 issues.

I really enjoyed Duffy Vohland's columns. Even tho I take the Comic Reader I enjoy reading some of the material again. It helps refresh the memory! But what is this about DC that says they may reinstate the Blackhawks? How reliable is this source? The Blackhawks were my favorite DC comic (that is until they received their so-called super-powers). The issues #225-240 were pretty bad, but have you ever read any of the early issues by Crandall!! Sensational!!! When Blackhawk was in his old Bi-Plane he was nearly undefeatable. I only hope that this rumor is true and Blackhawk may again see the light!!

As for the Collector, just stay the same high quality as you are now and you'll have an easy 50 issues.

((Thanks, Bart. It's guys like you that make it a pleasure to go to the trouble of publishing a zine))

SANDMAN, by MIKE ALROY

SANDMAN , II by MIKE ALROY

ROBERT KOWALSKI / 3072 Garvin /
Detroit, Michigan / 48212

Dear Bill: The following is my LOC on "The Collector" #14:
You've announced the winners in the name the Fantacchio creation contest, but what's the winning name and powers? ((Editor: Since two top winners were chosen, that means that there are two top entries yet to be decided upon for the better of the two. John, being so busy at this time, is trying his best to decide between them, but I'm sure that if you had read them you'd have a tough time deciding too! Although nothing is definite at this time, I can assure you that we will announce the winner immediately after the final choice has been made. But...please bear with us!)) Your cover is a little too much! "Uncanny Heroes" was highly interesting, to me at least! I had no idea that Yellowjacket had existed as a hero prior to Henry Pym's takeover of the name, and the other two heroes were new to me as well! I hope to see this feature in future issues! Hyperman is developing into a great strip, which is surprising when you consider its length! And it always leaves enough questions so that the reader wants the next ish! I'm no exception, so I've enclosed 25¢ in coin for The Collector 15! ((Editor: Sorry to disappoint you, but, as you can see, Hyperman didn't make it this time around. Watch for next issue, though, in an expanded format!)) Your News & Views col wasn't as current as your last one, The Comic Reader having beat you to most of the info! Tell Duffy I like his NEW col's new look! He really had no choice, since most of the new books have now been discontinued or soon will be! Dwight Decker's satire col can be dropped as far as I'm concerned! Leave satire to Not Brand Echh! As for your ad pages, you can drop them, too! I buy the zine for the features, not so somebody can try to sell me something else! ((Editor: BUT...What would you do if there weren't any ad pages in ANY zines? Then how would you find out about cons, worthwhile zines, comics, etc.? And...how would you find out about TC? The editors and dealers who advertise in TC either need the money or, predominately, publish a worthwhile zine (I'm not passing any judgement, because I haven't seen all the zines that advertise in TC), but I would suggest that you let them try to sell their fanzine. After all, if it hadn't been for some fans wanting fans, TC would never have reached its current peak in quality and excellence!))

DON'T FORGET...TC#15 (25¢), TCSpecial (50¢), or to send in your comments for TC16's discussion

RICK ROSBERG / 17551 Bolarwood St. / Fountain Valley,Calif.

Dear Bill: Thank you for issue #14 of The Collector, which I received last week. Again you have created another great issue. It was highlighted for me, of course, by seeing that the letter I had sent you had been printed.

The most interesting feature of the magazine was, in my opinion, the "New" article by Duffy Vohland. It is always interesting to hear news and views from a person who knows what he speaks. (Oh, yes, if Mr. Vohland wishes to find the most popular hero among the fans, my X vote has to go to Captain America)

D.R. Decker's satire on the Geek was terrific, and he made it sound as ridiculous as that strip was. I really don't know what DC was thinking of when they published "The Geek". Who did they think was going to buy it---the hippies???

Unknown Heroes was great. Frete did a very good job. Hyperman was good, in fact, somewhat better than the preceding strips. Probably because of Paul Lagrassie's inks.

The only part of issue #14 I found useless was the "News and Views" feature. Why review mags that everyone has and has read already? There's no sense behind it. ((Editor: When #14 was prepared, that news was current. But, because of various reasons, by the time it was printed and distributed, it became outdated. Have no fear, however, for this problem has been remedied!))

Finally thank you very much for the tribute to the late, great Boris Karloff. It was short and yet very well done. Again, thank you.

((Editor: Readers, you may be interested to know that I have in my possession a beautiful rendition of The Vision from Rich which will be used for the cover for the next issue. It is a fine piece of work which I'm sure you'll enjoy.))

MARK BARCLAY / 1310 W. Hood Ave. / Chicago, Illinois / 60626

Dear Bill: Manley's cover was good, but he's no John Pantucchio. Then again, few people are. Cosgrove's Captain America was good, but he seemed underemuscled, for some reason. As for ads, I say leave them in. They provide a source of revenue, and their presence doesn't harm TC in any way. Regarding the fact that you answer all letters: I see no reason for doing this. Perhaps if some one questions some part of TC, then maybe you should answer him, but otherwise, I say no. LOCs should be accepted as suggestions for improvement and missives of praise, but nothing more. Then again, if you want to answer your letters, that's up to you. ((I'm forced to answer most letters because of idiotic questions which are frequently asked.)) Unknown Heroes was good, but a suggestion: don't concentrate on the obscure and unknown merely because they are obscure and unknown. Rather, Doug should write about some hero who had something noteworthy about him. For example, Quicksilver, who, Doug says, has great art. This is noteworthy & of interest to the collector. But take Yellowjacket. He is merely an average, typical obscure GA hero? So why bother with him? Regrettably, most of your news wasn't new. It would be better to confine the column only to views. About the great TC Contest. Will the results ever be printed? NEW was fairly good. Bear Cavar the Geek was brilliant. Undoubtably another 5' from John McGeehan

Illustration by JIM D'AMICO, DAVE TRANSUE, and JIM SHULL

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NEWS

BILL WILSON

Since all or most of you have already feasted your eyes upon the fabulous Frazetta cover of Creepy #27 and have already witnessed Bernie Wrightson doing the latest Nightmaster in Showcase #83, I'll refrain from discussing that which you have already seen and touch on a few items which, in all probability, will be new and of interest to you...

A highly professional magazine which I have come into contact with, and which I think is an excellent magazine for fans and pros alike is CARTOONIST PROfiles. This high quality, 75 page offset magzine features some of the most comprehensive information on Cartoonist's favorites ever compiled. Featured in the first issue are Stan Lynde, Alan Dunn, Walt Disney, Milton Caniff, Roy Doty, Mort Walker, Bob Kane, and lots more! Interesting & comprehensive information, photos and representations, and pure PRO work. Published quarterly, charter subscriptions are $6.00 per year (with #2 they will return to $6.00) or $1.50 per copy. This may seem like a bit high, but believe me, when you see your copy, you'll realize that it's every bit worth it. Address to: CARTOONIST PROfiles, P.O. Box 325, Fairfield, Conn. 06430. // CriFanAc will be published monthly by Doug Fratz and Louis Morra, and will contain up-to-date info on cons, mags, and anything else of interest to fandom. Addresses: Doug Fratz, R.R.#1, Accident, Md. 21520 (15¢ or 7/$1); send news to Doug OR Louis Morra, 14 Grove St., North Attleboro, Mass. 02760. // There will be a Science Fiction convention held at the Allegheny Motor Inn at Coraopolis, Pa. (outside Pittsburgh) $2 cost. An effort is being made to have comic fandom represented, so please attend! The con is called the PgHLANGE, for more information write to: Peter Hays, 1421 Wightman St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217. // "The Collector" wishes the best for the 1969 Comic Art Convention in N.Y., The Southwestercon, and the PgHLANGE. We urge all readers to attend at least one of these cons, for an effort is being made to work out plans so that Ye Olde Editor will be able to attend at least one also, and I'd like to meet you at one of them! There are very good chances that I will be able to attend both the PgHLANGE and the N.Y. con! // Do you like Rosa Foss' illustration on this page and his back cover? Well if you do, then you'll be happy to know that Rosa is to become a regular staff artist, so you'll be seeing lots more of his fine work! // OVERSEAS FANS now you can order your copies of "The Collector" from British distributor Steve Dee, at 7, Vanguard Close, Romford, RM7 8LH, Essex, ENGLAND. Copies are available for about 2/3d.

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